

Creston Rural Fire District

*4498 Montana 35
Kalispell, Montana 59901*

August 13, 2020

Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office
Eric K. Mack
40 11th Street West
Kalispell, Montana 59901



Eric:

At the request of Flathead County Planning & Zoning Creston Fire District offers the following with regard to projects involving mini-storage facilities, including those larger facilities designed to accommodate vehicles, boats, etc.

The general nature of these structures makes them a challenge to firefighters should a fire occur within the building. Fire spread from one unit to the next is often the reality, frequently resulting in an entire storage building being fire involved. With the general design and known/unknown hazardous materials stored within the facility, firefighter safety is also a major concern.

To help address the above concerns certain safety aspects need to be addressed. It is vital that the contents of each unit be known and controlled, something that should be the responsibility of the facility owner/operator and made known to the fire department. The storage facility needs to be designed to include at least a one hour fire wall between units—this means all openings from one unit to the next must be fire sealed as well.

In addition to the buildings incorporating fire resistant construction and design it is extremely important that each “project” include a water supply for fire suppression on the property. Size of such water supply to be determined by the AHJ, however certain minimums need to be adhered to. In some cases this may be a minimum fire flow from a hydrant system and in those areas where no water system is present a water holding tank with water holding capacity of 30,000 gallons designed with a keep full supply from a well and a minimum of a 500 gpm pump with two 2.5” valved

discharges—tank to be designed to include a draft site (pipe) to be used should a power failure occur prior to, or during a fire.

Please feel free to contact me at 406-250-8233 if you have any questions.

Gary Mahugh

Gary Mahugh, Fire Chief
Creston Fire District

AUG 19 2020

Mary Fisher

From: John Gillespie <cwgvfd@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Mary Fisher
Subject: RE: Boat storage zoning change

The zoning text amendment change I was commenting on was one for Brian Joos, on behalf of Montana Personal Warehouse I, LLC, to amend Mini-storage , Recreational Vehicle Storage located in Whitefish, MT.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Mary Fisher](#)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 11:22 AM
To: ['John Gillespie'](#)
Subject: RE: Boat storage zoning change

Hi John,

I'm not sure which zone change you are referring to? I want to get it to the right person ☺

Thank you,

Mary Fisher
Planning Office Coordinator
Flathead County Planning & Zoning
40 11th Street West, Ste 220
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-8200 Fax: (406) 751-8210
mfisher@flathead.mt.gov

Any communications with the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office are subject to relevant State and Federal public record and information laws and regulations, and may be disclosed without further notice to you.

From: John Gillespie <cwgvfd@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Planning.Zoning <Planning.Zoning@flathead.mt.gov>
Subject: FW: Boat storage zoning change

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [John Gillespie](#)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 11:15 AM

To: planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov

Subject: Boat storage zoning change

Indoor storage of any vehicles or boats that may have fuel be required to have a 2 hour fire rating for separation and a fire alarm system. If the building is large and due to the number of vehicles inside, a fire suppression system be installed.

Walter Tabb, Fire Chief
Coram-West Glacier VFD

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